

“National Patient Charter of Rights”
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SYDNEY NSW 2001
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29 February 2008

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: National Patient Charter of Rights

Little Company of Mary Health Care and its Services welcome the opportunity to comment on the Draft *National Patient Charter of Rights*. The following is a collation of feedback from our 16 Services located across 6 states and territories and which represent all aspects of health care – acute, aged, rehabilitation and community.

1. Must have responsibilities included in the Charter. We have a responsibility to ensure the safety of patient’s staff and visitors and as such there is a need to ensure patients behave in a manner as to not do harm to staff.
2. No 5 “*that explains difference between accessing public hospital services as a public or private patient*”. This should include the obligation to declare their private health insurance.
3. No 6 – “*choose to participate in teaching*” should read “*choose to consent to participating in.....*”
4. Both the Public and Private patient charter should be agreed so there is uniformity of purpose.

The National Charter of rights document consistently states “will underpin the provision of safe and high quality health care and support a shared understanding of the rights and responsibilities of patients, consumers and health care providers.” The issue is primarily about the lack of responsibilities and the need to strike a balance between rights and obligations, and duties and freedoms of *all* parties, this document seems to focus principally on the patient as is implied by the name of the document.

Regards,

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